CLAIMS

1.   A content acquisition method characterized by comprising :

a file request information sending step of, in response to a request for content data, sending file request information that requests an acquire/use file storing acquire/use information including content data attribute information, to an acquire/use information providing device,

an information receiving step of, in response to said sent content data request, receiving via a proxy device for undertaking some of functions of the content receiving-side, said acquire/use file that stores content identification information and said attribute information of said content sent by said acquire/use information providing device data in a portion where such information is not removed when the acquire/use file passes through said proxy device,

a content request information sending step of sending content request information requesting said content data to a content providing device according to said acquire/use information contained in said acquire/use file, and

a content receiving step of receiving said content data sent by said content providing device in response to the transmission of said content request information.

2.   The content acquisition method according to claim 1, characterized in that said attribute information corresponding to

said content data comprises data size information of said content data.

3.   The content acquisition method according to claim 2, characterized by comprising:

a comparison step of comparing said data size information of said content data contained in said acquire/use file with the free space of a recording media to be used to record said content data upon reception, and

a notification step of, based on the results of said comparison by said comparison step, notifying a lack of said free space in said recording media for storing the content data if said free space in said recording media is insufficient.

4.   The content acquisition method according to claim 2, characterized by comprising:

a determination step of, after receiving said content data, comparing the data size of received said content data with said data size information of said content data contained in said acquire/use file, and determining whether or not said content data is successfully received.

5.   The content acquisition method according to claim 2, characterized in that:

said information receiving step receives said acquire/use
file sent in compliance with HTTP (Hyper Text Transfer Protocol)
from said acquire/use information providing device, said
acquire/use file storing said content identification information
and said attribute information of said content data in its main
section.

6.   An acquire/use information providing method characterized by
comprising:

a request information receiving step of receiving file
request information for requesting an acquire/use file that stores
acquire/use information containing attribute information of
content data, sent by a content acquisition device in response to
a request for the content data by a content data acquisition
device; and

an information sending step of, in response to the received
file request information, sending via a proxy device for
undertaking some of the functions of the content receiving-side to
said content acquisition device, said acquire/use file that stores
content data content identification information and attribute
information of the content data in a portion where such
information is not removed when the acquire/use file passes
through said proxy device.

7.   The acquire/use information providing method according to claim 6, characterized in that:

said attribute information corresponding to said content comprises data size information of said content data.

8.   The acquire/use information providing method according to claim 7, characterized in that:

    said information sending step sends said acquire/use file in compliance with HTTP (Hyper Text Transfer Protocol), said acquire/use file storing said content identification information and said data size information of said content data in its main section.

9.   A content acquisition device characterized by comprising :

a file request information sending means of, in response to a request for content data, sending file request information that requests an acquire/use file storing acquire/use information including content data attribute information, to an acquire/use information providing device,

an information receiving means of, in response to said sent content data request, receiving via a proxy device for undertaking some of functions of the content receiving-side, said acquire/use file that stores content identification information and said attribute information of said content sent by said acquire/use information providing device data in a portion where such

information is not removed when the acquire/use file passes through said proxy device,

a content request information sending means of sending content request information requesting said content data to a content providing device according to said acquire/use information contained in said acquire/use file, and

a content receiving means of receiving said content data sent by said content providing device in response to the transmission of said content request information.

10. The content acquisition device according to claim 9, characterized in that said attribute information corresponding to said content data comprises data size information of said content data.

11. The content acquisition device according to claim 10, characterized by comprising:

a comparison means of comparing said data size information of said content data contained in said acquire/use file with the free space of a recording media to be used to record said content data upon reception, and

a notification means of, based on the results of said comparison by said comparison means, notifying a lack of said free space in said recording media for storing the content data if said free space in said recording media is insufficient.

12. The content acquisition device according to claim 10, characterized by comprising:

a determination means of, after receiving said content data, comparing the data size of received said content data with said data size information of said content data contained in said acquire/use file, and determining whether or not said content data is successfully received.

13. The content acquisition device according to claim 10, characterized in that:

said information receiving means receives said acquire/use file sent in compliance with HTTP (Hyper Text Transfer Protocol) from said acquire/use information providing device, said acquire/use file storing said content identification information and said attribute information of said content data in its main section.

14. An acquire/use information providing device characterized by comprising:

a request information receiving means of receiving file request information for requesting an acquire/use file that stores acquire/use information containing attribute information of content data, sent by a content acquisition device in response to

a request for the content data by a content data acquisition device; and

an information sending means of, in response to the received file request information, sending via a proxy device for undertaking some of the functions of the content receiving-side to said content acquisition device, said acquire/use file that stores content data content identification information and attribute information of the content data in a portion where such information is not removed when the acquire/use file passes through said proxy device.

15. The acquire/use information providing device according to claim 14, characterized in that:

said attribute information corresponding to said content comprises data size information of said content data.

16. The acquire/use information providing device according to claim 14, characterized in that:

said information sending means sends said acquire/use file in compliance with HTTP (Hyper Text Transfer Protocol), said acquire/use file storing said content identification information and said data size information of said content data in its main section.

17. A content acquisition program for performing:

a file request information sending step of, in response to a
request for content data, sending file request information that
requests an acquire/use file storing acquire/use information
including content data attribute information, to an acquire/use
information providing device,

an information receiving step of, in response to said sent
content data request, receiving via a proxy device for undertaking
some of functions of the content receiving-side, said acquire/use
file that stores content identification information and said
attribute information of said content sent by said acquire/use
information providing device data in a portion where such
information is not removed when the acquire/use file passes
through said proxy device,

a content request information sending step of sending content
request information requesting said content data to a content
providing device according to said acquire/use information
contained in said acquire/use file, and

a content receiving step of receiving said content data sent
by said content providing device in response to the transmission
of said content request information.

18. An acquire/use information providing program for performing:

a request information receiving step of receiving file
request information for requesting an acquire/use file that stores
acquire/use information containing attribute information of

content data, sent by a content acquisition device in response to
a request for the content data by a content data acquisition
device; and

an information sending step of, in response to the received
file request information, sending via a proxy device for
undertaking some of the functions of the content receiving-side to
said content acquisition device, said acquire/use file that stores
content data content identification information and attribute
information of the content data in a portion where such
information is not removed when the acquire/use file passes
through said proxy device.